

some European nations have been celebrating International Women's Day on March 8 since 1911. Following women's suffrage in 1920 and the valuable contributions made by women to the war industries during the 1940's, women's issues were pushed to the forefront during the 1960's. The history of women was finally acknowledged in schools during the 1970s, and in 1981, the National Women's History Project spearheaded the initiative for National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress passed a resolution in recognition of this week, and in 1987, the week was expanded to National Women's History Month. In keeping with the annual

My district of Guam proudly takes part in celebrating Women's History Month. The Bureau of Women's Affairs holds events recognizing women's accomplishments, addressing women's issues, and empowering women to be the best that they can be. The theme for 2001 is "Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision," and there will be a proclamation signing not only for Women's History Month but also for the Year of the Family.

Today, the spirit of community in Guam was alive and well, as the Bureau of Women's Affairs and the Guam Council of Women's Club celebrated International Women's Day. In an event involving the participation of various women's clubs and organizations from the government of Guam and the private sector, organizations learned more about each other and shared information while cultural delicacies and artwork of Guam were showcased for all to see.

The children of Guam are also active during Women's History month, as they participate in a poster and essay competition in promotion of this year's theme "Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision." Elementary school children submit posters, and middle school and high school students enter essays, all of which are displayed at the Center Court at Micronesian Mall. Such an event raises early awareness on women's issues and fosters early recognition of women's contributions to Guam.

Finally, at the end of the month, the outstanding women of Guam for the year 2000 will be honored at the 7th Annual Awards Banquet at the Guam Marriott Resort. Winners from the categories of non-traditional role; grandmother; GovGuam/Federal (civil service); mother; community (local/military); and private sector will be announced. The influx of nominations illustrates that indeed the island embraces women of courage and vision.

Although this year's award recipients have not yet been named, the numerous women before them can again be recognized for paving the way in demonstrating leadership skills and commitment to our community and to our nation. For example, women in the public sector in Guam have made great strides over the past half century. They continue to be role models for our youth while encouraging political participation for all of the people of Guam.

In the Executive Branch, Lieutenant Governor Madeleine Bordallo holds the highest position held by a woman in Guam, and she currently serves her second term at this important post. There are 11 out of 60 female

heads of agencies, including Andrea Finona of the Guam passport Office; Sheila Torres of the Agency for Human Resources and Development; Jeanette R. Yamashita of the Chamorro Affairs Department; Isabel Lujan of the Department of Commerce; Rosie R. Tainatongo of the Department of Education; Deborah J. Bordallo of the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities; Geraldine "Ginger" S. Underwood of the Guam Educational Telecommunication Corporation, KGTF; Taling Taitano of the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority; Dr. Davina Lujan of the Guam Memorial Hospital; Thelma Ann Perez of the Guam Power Authority; and Christine K. Scott-Smith of the Guam Public Library.

In addition, 6 out of 40 deputy directors are women. They are: Rosanna San Miguel of the Agency for Human Resources and Development; Tina Muna-Barnes of the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities; Jamema G. Maravilla of the Guam Energy Office; Cil P. Orot of the Guam Public Library; Theresa R. Cruz of the Guam Visitors Bureau; and Aurora F. Cabanero of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Agency.

While others have served in acting capacities, Lourdes T. Pangelian is the only woman who has served as the permanent Chief of Staff for the Governor of Guam. Another noteworthy woman is Doris Flores Brooks, a former Senator in the Guam Legislature who is the first woman to be elected as Public Auditor.

As you can see, political representation by women is encouraged on Guam. Guam law requires all Government of Guam boards and commissions to maintain at least two female members. Several key boards have female chairpersons, such as former Senator Pilar Cruz Lujan at the Guam Airport Authority; Lillian Opena at the Guam Council of Youth Affairs; Dr. Heidi San Nicolas at the Guam Development Disabilities Council; Miriam S. Gallet at the Guam Environmental Protection Board of Directors; Corina G. Ludwig at the Guam Mass Transit; Ann Muna at the Guam Memorial Hospital; Bernadita Quitugua at the Guam Museum; and Arlene P. Bordallo at the Port Authority of Guam Board of Directors.

Women's participation in the Legislative Branch has also increased over the years. The first elected female to public office was Rosa T. Aguigui of Merizo, who was elected to the Guam Congress in 1946. Since 1986, women represented nearly 1/3 of the membership of the Guam Legislature. Female membership was at its peak in 1990 seven women were elected to serve in the 22nd Guam Legislature, which consisted of 21 members. During three separate years, women were the highest vote-getters for a legislative campaign: in 1986, Marilyn D.A. Manibusan had the most votes, in 1988, it was Madeleine Z. Bordallo; and in 1990, Doris Flores Brooks captured the largest number of votes. Female legislators that have held the highest offices are Vice Speaker Katherine B. Aguon; Legislative Secretaries Pilar C. Lujan, Elizabeth Arriola, Judith Won Pat-Borja, and Joanne Brown; and Rules Committee Chairperson Herminia Dierking.

In 1954, Largimas Leon Guerrero Untalan and Cynthia Johnston Torres were the first

women to be elected to the Guam Legislature. Currently, 3 out of the 15 Members are women: Senator Joanne M.S. Brown, who is Legislative Secretary and Chairperson of the Committee on Natural Resources; Senator Lou A. Leon Guerrero, who is the Assistant Minority Leader; and Senator Judith "Judy" T. Won Pat, the Assistant Minority Whip. Past members include: Lagrimas Leon Guerrero Untalan, Cynthia Johnston Torres, Katherine B. Aguon, Carmen Artero Kasperbauer, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Elizabeth P. Arriola, Pilar C. Lujan, Marilyn D.A. Manibusan, Hermina Duenas Dierking, Marcia K. Hartsock, Martha Cruz Ruth, Doris Flores Brooks, Marilyn Won Pat, Senator Hope A. Cristobal, Senator Carlotta Leon Guerrero, and Senator Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson, who is currently a Superior Court Judge. The highest staff position held by a female in the Guam Legislature is Deputy Director, held by Dorothy Perez.

Women have made promising gains in the Judicial Branch as well. Two out of 17 judges of the Superior Court are women: Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and Judge Katherine A.

Past female mayors include: Rossana D. San Miguel of Chalan Pago; Patricia S. Quinata of Dededo; Nieves F. Sablan of Piti; and Cecilia Quinata Morrison of Umatac. Past Vice Mayors include Doris S. Palacios of Dededo; Teresita B. Umagat of Dededo; Margaret D. Mendiola Mayor of Sinajana; and Marie S. N. Leon Guerrero of Tamuning-Tumon.

Women have also held high positions in political parties. Mayilyn D.A. Manibusan was the first and to date the only female chairperson of the Republican Party, holding office in 1986, and Priscilla Tenorio Tuncap was the first female chairperson for the Democratic Party from 1990 to 1992. Pilar Cruz Lujan was elected last year and currently serves as the Democratic chairperson. Pilar Cruz served as the Vice Chairperson of Guam's Republican Party in the past. Nationwide, Madeleine Z. Bordallo is the longest-serving national committee woman on the Democratic National Committee and has served in this capacity since the Kennedy Administration.

In addition, Antoniette Duenas Sanford is the only woman to have served as Chairperson of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, and Eloise Baza has served as the first female President of the Guam Chamber of Commerce for the last several years.

As a native Chamorro from Guam, I am proud to announce some of the "firsts" for Chamorro women, a few of which I have mentioned already. Dr. Olivia Cruz was the first Chamorro woman licensed by the Medical Licensure Board; Frances Marie Tydingco Gatewood was the first Chamorro woman judge of the Superior Court; Elizabeth Gayle was the first Chamorro woman to be civil engineer; Dr. Rosa Robert Carter was the first Chamorro woman president and the only female President of the University of Guam; Mary Inez Underwood was the first woman of Chamorro ancestry to enter the religious life; Elizabeth Barrett Anderson was the first